



Annual Program Summary Report for Watershed Awareness Program July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

PUBLIC OUTREACH - EVENTS AND PUBLICATIONS

Friends of Sausal Creek Community Talks (formerly “Member Meetings”)

Friends of Sausal Creek (FOSC) offered five community talks, both indoor presentations and outdoor events to the community, drawing a range of 23-130+ community members per event.

- “California on Fire: Fire Ecology and Prevention” (September 19). Presenters: Dylan Pastor and Jacob Levine from U.C. Berkeley’s Stephens Fire Science Laboratory.
- “Birds of Prey in the East Bay” (November 14). Presenter: Mike Moran, Supervising Naturalist with East Bay Regional Park District.
- “State of the Watershed: Citizen Science” (January 16). Presenters: Jeff Stephens (citizen science, environmental education), Kathleen Harris (water quality testing and macroinvertebrates), Mark Rauzon (bird monitoring), and May Chen (pollinators). Eight site leaders shared posters and information on their site restoration efforts.
- “On Ohlone Land” (March 20). This event drew record attendance for a FOSC community talk with 130+ community members. Presenter: Corrina Gould from Indian People Organizing for Change and the Sogorea Te’ Land Trust.
- “Sausal Creek Erosion Control Project Ceremony” (May 11). Held at the Stormdrain #2 site, the ceremony highlighted the construction, native plants and impact of the Erosion Control Project. Presenters: City of Oakland Watershed and Stormwater Management, the FOSC board members, FOSC staff, DWR, Oakland councilmember Sheng Thao, and Questa Engineering.

Tabling at Community Events

During this year, FOSC staff and volunteers connected with community members by tabling at several local events including the following:

- **Picnic in the Dimond Park** (July 22)
- **Glenview Sundae Sunday** (September 16)
- **Friends of Joaquin Miller Park Annual Meeting** (September 17)
- **Dimond Oaktobfest** (Two days, September 28-29)
- **Alameda County Confluence Conference** (October 17)
- **City of Oakland Volunteer Appreciation Party** (November 8)
- **Piedmont Pines Neighborhood Association Annual Meeting** (January 29)
- **Earth Day at the Oakland Zoo** (April 14)

FOSC continues its outreach to the Fruitvale District in Oakland, tabling at:

- **Día de los Muertos in the Fruitvale** (November 4)

FOSC also had informational tables at our largest annual events:

- **Creek to Bay Day** workday (September 15)
- **FOSC 13th Annual Native Plant Sale and Open House** (October 21)
- **Earth Day** (April 20) at Dimond Park/Canyon

Tabling information includes: stormwater pollution prevention; native plant and birding guides; the *Trails and Tributaries of the Sausal Creek Watershed* map brochure; the *Sausal Creek Walkable Watershed Concept Plan* (copies in English and Spanish); tri-fold displays in English and Spanish, and flyers on upcoming volunteer opportunities. FOSC also introduced the new, bilingual lower watershed map, *My Sausal Creek Watershed*, and the new popular round FOSC water bottle stickers. Community members signed up at each event to be added to the FOSC monthly newsletter list, listserv, and/or the plant sale email list.

Walks, Tours, and Presentations

Drawing from expert volunteers, staff and board members, FOSC hosted well-attended walks tours and presentations.

Rainbow Trout Conservation Plan Tour (August 1). FOSC staff and representatives from the FOSC board, City of Oakland Watershed and Stormwater Management team, and Oakland Trails toured Dimond Canyon Park in preparation for writing the Rainbow Trout Conservation Plan.

Alameda County Watershed Confluence (October 17) Attendance: 200+. Presenters: FOSC board members Jeff Stephens (FOSC and the City of Oakland collaborations), Carl Kohnert (FOSC impact in the watershed), and Mark Rauzon (citizen science and bird monitoring).

Bay Area Integrated Regional Water Management Coordinating Committee (December 3) Attendance: 30+. Presenter: FOSC staff Nicki Alexander (water issues in the Fruitvale District).

King Tides Walk Along the Waterfront (January 20) Attendance: 54+. FOSC Nicki Alexander (sea level rise impact and climate change) and local historian Dennis Evanosky led tour.

FOSC Botanical Hike for EBRPD Docents (February 20) Attendance: 6. FOSC staff oriented East Bay Regional Park District docents to the native plant restoration in the watershed.

Fern Ravine Hike with FOSC and California Native Plant Society (March 16) Attendance: 40+. FOSC volunteers (Beth Keer and Karen Paulsell) led a hike showcasing flowering natives and native plants identification tips in the redwood understory.

Dimond Improvement Association Volunteer Fair (June 5) Attendance: 40+. FOSC board member presented on FOSC activities and volunteer opportunities.

Jingletown Estuary History and Art Walk (June 10) Attendance: 50+. Local historian Dennis Evanosky led community on a walking tour through Jingletown and the Open Studios.

Other Outreach

In addition to producing educational materials and publications, FOSC has also been recognized and included in several publications and websites.

- Shayn Keyles from GotScience.org published a white paper *Science Connected* highlighting FOSC (citizen science and conservation): <https://www.scienceconnected.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Citizen-Science-and-Conservation.pdf>
- FOSC was included in East Bay Municipal Utility District's insert in the *East Bay Express* on East Bay watersheds and groups working to protect them (September 2018). See page five of the flipbook. <https://www.eastbayexpress.com/general/flash/2018/EBMUD2018/>
- FOSC accepted the **Leadership Award** at the **Alameda County Watershed Confluence Conference** (October 17) for "significant and outstanding contributions to the health of watersheds and waterways in Alameda County."
- FOSC was recognized for with a **2018 Gold Seal** on our GuideStar Nonprofit Profile.
- FOSC volunteer, Karen Paulsell, was honored at the city-wide **Volunteer Appreciation Party** (November 8).
- The Kings Tide Walk was covered in the January 21 edition of **Singhao Daily**, a Chinese newspaper. <https://www.singtaousa.com/sf/>
- The Sausal Creek Restoration Project in Dimond Park, a City of Oakland and FOSC partnership, won the **Merit Award from ASLA-Northern California** for Design of Parks, Trails, and Open Space. <https://asla-ncc.org/kayaportfolio/2019-awards-sausal-creek-restoration/?fbclid=IwAR2daNil9YR1MID0BJMBxJV1fwS5jqr8vuLe-Or32o2M56577PsXw1ak0O4>
- The Sausal Creek Erosion Control Project Ceremony was reported in DWR's May **California Water News**: <https://water.ca.gov/News/Blog/2019/May-2019/Sausal-Creek-Project> and featured in the **California Water News Daily** on June 10, 2019: <http://californiawaternewsdaily.com/conservation/upper-sausal-creek-restoration-project-completed-improves-water-quality-fish-habitat/>
- FOSC was recognized as the **Partner Spotlight** in the California Invasive Plant Council's May Wildland Volunteer Network Newsletter. <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/May-News-from-the-Wildland-Volunteer-Network.html?soid=1101215423203&aid=uGTIkk6B8i4>
- Jenny Odell's book *How to Do Nothing*, noted FOSC's successful restoration work in Dimond Park and Canyon and subsequently in the East Bay Yesterday Q&A Live episode "How to Do Nothing in Oakland with Jenny Odell." <https://eastbayyesterday.com/episodes/eby-qa-live/>

This year FOSC updated and reprinted 50,000 copies of the popular Trails and Tributaries of the *Sausal Creek Watershed map brochure*. In addition to trail map boxes in Dimond Canyon Park and Joaquin Miller Park, *Visit Oakland* stocks maps at its Jack London office. FOSC created and printed (15,000) bilingual maps of the lower watershed, *My Sausal Creek Watershed* to support environmental education curricula.

FOSC strives to maximize outreach effectiveness across diverse community groups by distributing information (e.g. community talks, volunteer events, workdays) in varied formats including announcements in digital and print publications, posts on neighborhood listservs, placement of flyers and maps in trail map boxes in Dimond Canyon Park and Joaquin Miller Park at trailheads, and personal contact at tabling events. Further, this year, FOSC has produced Spanish language materials

including: flyers, newsletter announcements, the April newsletter, and the bilingual Lower watershed map, *My Sausal Creek Watershed*.

FOSC made steady progress in employing multiple social media formats for public outreach including FOSC's **newsletter**, **listserv**, **website** (www.sausalcreek.org), **Facebook** page (www.facebook.com/FriendsOfSausalCreek), **Instagram** account ([friends_of_sausal_creek](https://www.instagram.com/friends_of_sausal_creek)), and **Twitter** account (FOSC_Field). Highlights were posted several times a week on Facebook for key events (e.g. Native Plant Sale, Ohlone Community Talk, King Tides Walk). Our Facebook page Likes increased from 748 to **896**, Instagram followers increased from 237 to **370**, and listserv membership increased from 754 to **811** members during the last fiscal year.

We produced the **FOSC Newsletter** issues for April 2019 (3,401 subscribers (<https://conta.cc/2KetiED>), April 2019 Spanish version (<https://conta.cc/2K8grux>), May 2019 (3,438 subscribers, <https://conta.cc/2HG1riY>), and June 2019 (3,434 subscribers, <https://conta.cc/2Jl6vv6>). We continue to serve nine community members who have requested mailed, hard copies.

Coordinating opportunities with other groups allows FOSC to leverage resources. **Community groups** that volunteered directly with FOSC during the year included:

Boy Scouts of America Brothers on the Rise buildOn (various high schools) Chabot Space and Science Center CSU-East Bay Earth Team East Bay Academy for Young Scientists	Girl Scouts of Northern California Hands on Bay Area Hayward High School Interact Club Holy Names University, Upward Bound Laney College	Merritt College Pernod Ricard Piedmont Community Service Crew Teen Eco Action Week, East Bay Regional Park District Thermo Fisher Scientific UC Berkeley Intro to Culture and Natural Resource Management
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FOSC also partners with other local **community organizations and nonprofits** including:

Bicycle Trails Council of the East Bay California Invasive Plant Council California Native Plant Society-East Bay Cesar Chavez Library Diablo Firesafe Council Dimond Business and Professional Association Dimond Improvement Association Dimond Library	Friends of Dimond Park Friends of Joaquin Miller Park Friends of Montclair Railroad Trail Friends of Wood Park Fruitvale-San Antonio Senior Center Glenview Neighborhood Association Jingletown Arts & Business Community	Keep Oakland Beautiful Montclair Village Association Oakland Trails Peralta Hacienda Historical Park Piedmont Pines Neighborhood Association Shepherd Canyon Homeowners Association Unity Council Youth Employment Program
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CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT EVENTS

FOSC community volunteer events are held year-round at sites throughout the watershed. Some of the workdays are led by FOSC staff, while others are led by neighborhood volunteers. Volunteer-led worksites receive support from FOSC staff in multiple ways: assistance with workday outreach and volunteer recruitment, tools, consultation about site restoration plans, and

contribution of native plants grown at our native plant nursery. Citizen involvement events during fiscal year 2018-19 included:

- Three (3) workdays at Barry Place
- Twelve (12) public workdays and one (1) private workday at Beaconsfield Canyon
- Three (3) workdays at Bienati Creek Overlook
- Two (2) public workdays at Big Trees Trail Pallid Manzanita colony
- Seventeen (17) workdays at the Bridgeview Pollinator Garden
- Fourteen (14) workdays on the Bridgeview Trail
- Two (2) workdays at 9519 Skyline
- Six (6) Pallid Manzanita Crew workdays and three (3) monitoring and/or training day at Chabot Space and Science Center pallid manzanita colony
- Eighteen (18) public workdays and five (5) private workdays in Dimond Canyon Park and Dimond Park
- Six (6) workdays in the Dimond Park Native Plant Demonstration Garden
- One (1) private workday at Fern Ravine
- Two (2) workdays at the Fruitvale Bridge Park
- Thirty-eight (38) public workdays and two (2) private workdays at the FOOSC Native Plant Nursery
- Twenty-seven (27) workdays by Friends of Montclair Railroad Trail
- Two (2) In-the-creek cleanup workdays
- Three (3) workdays in Jingtown
- Two (2) workdays in Joaquin Miller Park
- One (1) workday at Josie de la Cruz Park
- Twenty (20) workdays at Marj Saunders Park
- Two (2) workdays at Monterey Redwoods
- Five (5) workdays at the PAL Camp in Joaquin Miller Park
- One (1) workday in Shepherd Canyon
- Six (6) workdays with Trail Crew (Monterey Redwoods, Bridgeview Trail at Monterey, Dimond Canyon Park)
- Ten (10) workdays at William D. Wood Park
- Eight (8) seed collection hikes
- Two (2) stakes/seed collection workdays
- Four (4) bird monitoring events
- Nine (9) coliform sampling days (wet and dry season series)

- One (1) completed storm drain mural in Jingtowntown (Jingtowntown Arts and Business Community and site leader Cynthia Elliot)
- One (1) metal-bottomed platform for soil at the nursery built as student service project.
- Five (5) Eagle Scout projects completed:
 - A new clean pot storage shed including shelving to minimize contamination in the FOOSC Native Plant Nursery.
 - Thirty sanded and refinished benches to support nursery best management practices.
 - A Public Service Announcement was produced and posted on youtube to encourage youth participation in FOOSC.
 - Steps constructed in Beaconsfield Canyon to stabilize the trail.
 - Construction of split rail fencing to protect rainbow trout spawning in Dimond Canyon Park.
- Board of Directors: Our board of directors and executive director met every other month. Board of Directors meetings were open to the public, and the agenda and staff report were posted on the FOOSC website.

SCHOOL-AGE EDUCATION PROGRAMS

FOOSC staff and volunteer docents led 64 field trips this past school year, some serving multiple classes. In addition, we led 38 field trips for Oakland Parks, Recreation & Youth Development camps and Team Oakland crews. Many of the field trips involved the same classes/groups over multiple days for the purpose of facilitating deep and broad engagement with the content and environment. FOOSC had 1,839 student contacts through field trips and restoration activities. We also provided 24 in-classroom lessons to 537 students.

Our activities with school-age children and youth included leading environmental education field trips for school classes and restoration workdays for student community service groups. Topics and discussions included: the geography and resources of Sausal Creek Watershed; stormwater pollution prevention; water quality testing; stream restoration strategies; native and non-native plant identification; redwood ecology; and the tides and wildlife adaptations to estuary habitats.

Students actively engaged with the environment through a variety of activities including: hiking along the creek and/or through the woods; sketching; removing litter from in-the-creek and project sites; birdwatching; monitoring water quality through testing and by observing and monitoring benthic macroinvertebrates. Many programs also involve a hands-on restoration activity such as removal of invasive, nonnative plants; vegetation monitoring; planting of native plants; or propagating plants in our native plant nursery. This year marked the third year of our “Follow Your Creek” field trip program focused on schools within walking distance of the creek’s mouth at Fruitvale Bridge Park. FOOSC developed and printed (15,000) bilingual maps of the lower watershed and in collaboration with a bilingual artist, incorporated art into the existing science (STEAM) curricula to support environmental education curricula in the lower watershed and estuary.

Classroom topics included learning key terms (e.g. native, non-native, invasive, restoration), water quality testing vocabulary, the ethnobotanical history of the Sausal Creek Watershed, and the connection of storm drains to Oakland waterways. In addition, student participated in a survey and considered the key water issues in their neighborhood, thereby providing the youth perspective on water issues of importance to them.

School groups served were from the following schools (* indicates schools participating in classroom lessons in addition to a field trip):

Achieve Academy *	Head Royce School
ARISE High School*	Howard Elementary School*
ASCEND Elementary School*	Learning without Limits*
ASPIRE Triumph Technology Academy*	Lazear Charter Academy*
Aurora School	Madison Park High School*
Bret Harte Middle School*	Melrose Leadership Academy*
Chabot Elementary	Oakland High School*
Corpus Christi School	Piedmont High School
Crocker Highlands Elementary	Skyline High School
EPIC Middle School	Urban Montessori Charter School
Fremont High School*	Urban Promise Academy*
Greenleaf Elementary School	Yu Ming Charter School

We also led field trips for groups of students from various other schools working in partnership with after-school programs led by Brothers on the Rise and Chabot Space & Science Center’s Champions of Science program.

Field trip locations included:

Barry Place	Fruitvale Bridge Park
Beaconsfield Canyon	Jingletown Native Plant Garden
Big Trees Trail (Joaquin Miller Park)	Joaquin Miller Court
Bridgeview Pollinator Garden	Native Plant Nursery in Joaquin Miller Park
Chabot Space & Science Center (pallids)	Monterey Redwoods (Bridgeview Trail)
Dimond Canyon Park	Tidewater Boating Center
Dimond Park	Wood Park
Fern Ravine (Joaquin Miller Park)	

In addition to these field trips, many students volunteered during community workdays year-round throughout the watershed including students affiliated with the following **student service organizations**.

Berkeley High School	Holy Names College, Upward Bound
Boy Scouts of America	Oakland High School (science class)
Brothers on the Rise	Peralta Hacienda Welcome to Wilderness Program
buildOn (various high schools)	Piedmont High School
CSUEB (Beta Alpha Psi)	Quarry Lane Service Week
Earth Team	Skyline High School
East Oakland Leadership Academy	UC Berkeley, Intro. to Culture and Natural Resource Management
Girls Scouts of Northern California (Hoover Elementary)	
HandsOn	

FOSC staff continue to lead summer service learning projects for underserved student groups including Holy Names University **Upward Bound** high school students (30 students), **Peralta Hacienda’s Welcome to Wilderness Camp** students (31 students), and East Bay Regional Park District’s **Teen Eco Action Week** (5 students) at Fern Ravine and Dimond Park.

We partnered with **Oakland Parks, Recreation & Youth Development (OPRYD)** during the summer of 2018 and June of 2019. In the summer of 2018 FOSC worked with Touch the Earth and Shake, Rattle & Roll day camp programs in the Joaquin Miller Park redwood area. Our staff

led weekly environmental education and restoration activities with seven groups of campers for each program in July and August. Topics included birds, amphibians and reptiles, forests, and mammals in the watershed, “Leave No Trace” ethics, native plants, insects and other wildlife, and California native peoples and their practices. These groups also went on ethnobotany hikes through the redwoods and participated in restoration activities including removal of invasive, nonnative plants. In 2019, OPRYD discontinued Touch the Earth and Shake, Rattle & Roll day camp programs, however, FOOSC will offer weekly environmental activities to the Junior Explorers program at the Dimond Recreation Center’s Town Camp in July and August of 2019.

FOOSC continued the partnership with **Team Oakland**, an Oakland Public Works job training summer employment program for local youth. During July and early August of 2018 FOOSC staff worked weekly with three teams of 8-12 youth. FOOSC provided a special project for each team, each week for the six-week program. The teenagers tackled invasive plant removal projects at Bridgeview Pollinator Garden, Dimond Canyon Park, Fern Ravine, Jingtowntown Native Plant Garden & Murals, Joaquin Miller Park, Wood Park, and transplanted plants at the FOOSC Native Plant Nursery. They picked up trash in the creek and at various FOOSC sites and participated in benthic macroinvertebrate observation, creek health discussions, and learned native/invasive plant identification. This collaboration continues beginning in June 2019 for a seven-week partnership.

FUNDING

Additional funding in 2018-19 came from:

Alameda County Fish and Game Commission	East Bay Municipal Utility District
Bill Graham Supporting Foundation of the Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund	Hillside Gardeners of Montclair
California Coastal Conservancy Explore the Coast Grant Program	Rose Foundation
California Department of Water Resources Urban Stream Restoration Program (Proposition 84 grant)	Strong Foundation for Environmental Values
	Organization donations
	Business contributions and employee matches
	Individual contributions

SUMMARY

- Volunteer visits (including students/youth): **4,516**
- Volunteer service hours: **11,285**
- Students contacts (field trips, restoration, and/or summer service learning projects): **1,839**
- Student/youth field trips, restoration, and summer service learning projects: **102**
- Student participating in classroom presentations: **537** (Title 1 schools)
- Plants planted by FOOSC: **4,317**. An additional 975 natives from FOOSC nursery were planted by D-Line Constructors for the USRP project.
- Plants donated for school and city projects: **90**